United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

FCCC/SBSTA/2018/L.11

Distr.: Limited
9 May 2018

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
Forty-eighth session
Bonn, 30 April to 10 May 2018

Agenda item 6
Research and systematic observation

Research and systematic observation

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted with appreciation the activities and information reported in the statements[1] delivered by the representatives of the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UN-Oceans, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the World Meteorological Organization.

2. The SBSTA welcomed the summary report on the ninth meeting of the research dialogue prepared by the SBSTA Chair.[2]

3. The SBSTA noted the views and considerations submitted by Parties[3] on possible topics for the tenth and future meetings of the research dialogue. It also noted the information note on the tenth meeting of the research dialogue (RD 10) prepared by the SBSTA Chair.[4]

4. The SBSTA welcomed RD 10, held on 3 May 2018, its aim to promote discussion at the science–policy interface and its four themes:

(a) Science for understanding – update on research and modelling on human settlements, oceans and land and their importance for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(b) Science for action – strengthening the link between the research community and action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement;

(c) Renewable energy economics and co-benefits;

(d) Global research on the carbon cycle and its observation requirements in support of the Paris Agreement.

[1] Available at https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.
[2] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/researchdialogue_2017_2_summaryreport.pdf.
[3] As footnote 1 above.
[4] The information note, agenda, presentations and other information related to RD 10 are available at https://unfccc.int/event/tenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue-rd-10.

5. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to Parties and all participating research programmes and organizations and their representatives for their contributions to RD 10. It welcomed the diverse and informative set of posters and presentations at the meeting and the value of the dialogue and the exchange of information.

6. The SBSTA acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the IPCC in the sixth assessment cycle[5] and recalled decision 1/CP.23.[6]

7. The SBSTA noted the importance of the progress of the WCRP Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 for the AR6[7] and the WCRP Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment[8] for climate services.

8. The SBSTA also noted the important work of the scientific community, including at the CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference,[9] on understanding the complex role played by cities in strengthening the global response to climate change.

9. The SBSTA further noted the importance of the work of the scientific community and the IPCC under the themes of RD 10 referred to in paragraph 4 above. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to address gaps and needs with regard to:

(a) Increasing open access to climate-relevant data;

(b) The vulnerabilities of terrestrial, marine, coastal and urban ecosystems to climate change and the value of ecosystem-based approaches, particularly synergies of mitigation and adaptation action and related co-benefits;

(c) The rapid changes in the renewable energy landscape and the implications for the assessment of mitigation options and their co-benefits;

(d) The role of the ocean in the global climate system, including for the global energy balance and carbon cycle, and impacts related to, inter alia, ocean acidification, sea level rise and ecosystem services, noting the proclamation by the United Nations of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), which is to be coordinated by IOC-UNESCO;[10]

(e) The recent and ongoing rapid changes in the Arctic region;

(f) The analysis of the global carbon cycle;[11]

(g) Research, as identified under other agenda items and by constituted bodies[12] under the Convention.[13]

10. The SBSTA noted the urgency for enhanced science communication.[14] It welcomed the work of the scientific community on science communication, including some examples reported at RD 10, to support action under the Paris Agreement.

11. The SBSTA noted the importance of regional institutions and networks and the importance of providing and exchanging knowledge at the regional, national and local

---

[5] Including on the special reports *Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, *Climate Change and Land*, and *Global Warming of 1.5 °C* (SR 1.5), the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report; see http://www.ipcc.ch/activities/activities.shtml.

[6] See references to the IPCC SR 1.5 in annex II to this decision.

[7] See https://www.wcrp-climate.org/wgcm-cmip/wgcm-cmip6.

[8] See http://www.cordex.org/.

[9] See http://citiesipcc.org/.

[10] See http://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade.

[11] See footnote 4 above and https://www.globalcarbonproject.org.

[12] See https://unfccc.int/node/15859.

[13] Including under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (see https://unfccc.int/nwp) and its Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (see http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/News/Pages/LAKI-methodology.aspx) and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (see https://unfccc.int/node/65106).

[14] See the information from RD 10 on theme 2 (see https://unfccc.int/event/tenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue-rd-10) and activities under Action for Climate Empowerment (see https://unfccc.int/node/10596).

level. The SBSTA also noted that regional initiatives on science communication would be valuable, organized in close collaboration with regional research organizations and networks and other relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of financial resources. It urged Parties to continue to engage with the scientific community.

12. The SBSTA encouraged Parties to support transdisciplinary research to enable engagement of the scientific community with the policy community and other relevant stakeholders and communities for informed actions under the Paris Agreement.

13. The SBSTA noted the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge[15] in relevant aspects of scientific data and research, and in communication at the science–policy interface.

14. The SBSTA recognized the importance of continued and enhanced support for climate change research, including enhancing research capacity, particularly in developing countries.

15. The SBSTA requested its Chair to produce a summary report on RD 10 and to make it available prior to SBSTA 50 (June 2019).

16. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit their views on possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the research dialogue to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 50 and beyond via the submission portal[16] by 15 January 2019. Submissions should take into account the themes addressed and presentations made at previous research dialogue meetings and the themes suggested for future meetings, which are listed in the annex to the information note referred to in paragraph 3 above.

---

[15] Including that identified under the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform; see https://unfccc.int/node/65106.

[16] https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.